

NEWS FROM

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Financial Aid Tip of the Month, August 2005

Free tips for finding money for college

If you're headed for college next fall, following these tips from the Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA can give you the edge in the yearly race for scholarship dollars.

- **Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1.** The FAFSA is used to apply for most state and federal student aid programs. File online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- **Look for local scholarships in your newspaper.** Many scholarships are promoted through newspapers. Contact the sponsoring organizations for more information.
- **Check listings in *Affording Higher Education*.** This KHEAA publication lists thousands of sources of student aid available to Alabama students. High school counselors and high school and public libraries receive free updated copies each fall.
- **Talk with your guidance counselor,** who's an excellent resource and can tell you about financial aid in general and where to find it.
- **Visit websites** with free information about college, financial aid and careers. The new www.alabamamentor.org has a free scholarship search and more.
- **Look for local or special interest scholarships.** Write to organizations in fields you are considering, which often offer financial aid. Community organizations, foundations, religious organizations, fraternal groups, clubs and major businesses in your area may have scholarships reserved for local students.
- **Apply, apply, apply.** The more financial aid for which you apply, the better your chances of getting enough to pay for college. Make sure you meet all deadlines.
- **Beware of scams.** There's no need to pay for help finding student aid. But if you choose to do so, make sure it's a reputable company. Unfortunately, some aren't.

For more information about college financial aid, visit www.alabamamentor.org; write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.